

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04649 160546Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 MCT-01 IO-13 /128 W
-----109693 160627Z /15

R 151022Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8376
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04649

E.O. 11652: SGDS-4
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: TEHRAN SITUATION MAY 15

REF: TEHRAN 4583

1. RUMORS WERE RIFE MAY 14 THAT DRIVERS AND OTHERS WOULD DEMONSTRATE AGAINST HIGH PRICE OF GASOLINE MAY 15 BY ATTACKING VEHICLES THAT MOVED AROUND THE CITY THAT DAY. THIS BROUGHT MOST SCHOOL BUS SERVICES TO A HALT, THUS VIRTUALLY SHUTTING DOWN MANY SCHOOLS, AND MADE TEHRAN TRAFFIC BEARABLE ONCE AGAIN, FOR THOSE OF US WHO DROVE TOWORK ANYWAY. DESPITE REPORTS THAT ARMOR WAS STATIONED ON CITY STREETS, THOROUGH RECONNAISSANCE BY DAO IN MANY CITY AREAS UNCOVERED ONLY GROUPS OF ARMY TROOPS WITH A COUPLE OF BIG WRECKERS, ONE OR TWO BULLDOZERS AND A TRUCK AND COMMAND JEEP AT KEY INTERSECTIONS. ALSO MORE THAN USUAL POLICE VEHICLES AND TRUCKS- BUT NO VISIBLE RIOT POLICE. FEWER PEOPLE THAN USUAL, PARTICULARLY WOMEN, ON THE STREETS.

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2. THREE ARMISH MAAG CARS (ONE OFFICIAL, TWO PRIVATE) WERE DISCOVERED MAY 14 SPRAY PAINTED IN PERSIAN "DEATH TO THE SHAH". THIS IS ISOLATED INCIDENT, AND WE ARE NOT GIVING IT PUBLICITY.

3. WITNESSES HAVE SEEN CITY FIRE TRUCKS HEADED TOWARD SOUTH PART OF CITY, ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS YET REPORTED SEEING

ANY FIRES OR BURNING CARS AS RUMOR WOULD HAVE IT. WE ARE
THEREFORE REPORTING AS OF COB TEHRAN WITH VERY INCOMPLETE
INFORMATION ON EXACT EVENTS IN THE CITY TODAY. AS WE
CONTEMPLATE DRIVING HOME THROUGH BEAUTIFULLY THIN TRAFFIC
WE CAN FACETIOUSLY ADD THERE IS AT LEAST ONE GOOD THING
ABOUT TENSION BUILT FROM RUMOR MONGERING; TRAFFIC MOVES.
SULLIVAN

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